Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Letter dated 7 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council from Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (see annex), concerning the view of the Arab League on the importance of including the resolution on the Middle East, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in the final report of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for its distribution as a document of the Preparatory Committee.

(Signed) Abdallah BAALI

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States addressed to the President of the Security Council

In the light of the concern of the League of Arab States for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, and primarily nuclear weapons, from the Middle East region and in view of the fact that the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the [Review] Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [in the year 2000] is to be held in April 1999 in New York, I should like to inform you that, at the most recent session of the Council of the League, the Arab ministers for foreign affairs noted with concern that the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty had not been included in the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session, held in Geneva at the end of April 1998.

As you know, the League has endorsed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its objectives and has affirmed the importance of achieving universal accession thereto, without any exceptions. All of the Arab States have acceded to the Treaty and have undertaken to be fully bound by it and by its provisions as well as by the provisions of the resolution on the Middle East. Israel's failure to accede to the Treaty, its failure to declare any intention of doing so and its failure to submit its nuclear facilities to the safeguards regime, however, indicate a flaw in the credibility of the nuclear non-proliferation regime's universality and its inability to safeguard international peace and security, particularly in the Middle East region.

In this context, we deem it important that the resolution on the Middle East should be included in the final report of the Preparatory Committee for the [Review] Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [in the year 2000] on its third session and that the States parties to the Treaty, and particularly the nuclear-weapon States that adopted this resolution, should be urged to make the greatest efforts for the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, and primarily nuclear weapons, in the region of the Middle East.

I am confident that you will spare no effort to achieve this goal in order to safeguard international peace and security, particularly in the Middle East, a region whose peoples aspire to the establishment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

(Signed) Ahmed Esmat ABDEL MEGUID
Secretary-General
of the League of Arab States